

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1951-52.

The following harvest estimates are based on reports received from 2,745 farmers representing 40% of the area under crop.

WHEAT. The estimated yield is 27,250,000 bushels, compared with 30,936,044 in 1950-51 and represents an average yield of 17.81 bushels from 1,530,000 acres. The mean average yield over the last ten years has been approximately 13 bushels. The average yield of 17.81 bushels in 1951-52 has been exceeded only by the 18.18 bushels in 1942-43.

BARLEY. Based on the replies from farmers, a yield of 17,500,000 bushels is estimated from 805,000 acres or an average yield of 21.61 bushels per acre. The previous record crop was 16,727,030 bushels in 1950-51, with an average yield of 21.87 bushels. The mean average yield for the past ten seasons has been a little over 19 bushels.

OATS. The estimated yield is 5,500,000 bushels from 380,000 acres or an average yield of 14.47 bushels per acre. This exceeds the previous record crop of 5,394,261 bushels in 1947-48. The 1950-51 yield was 3,533,333 bushels. The ten year average yield has been $10\frac{3}{4}$ bushels.

HAY. During recent years there have been heavy decreases in the acreages cut for cereal hay and there has been a further decrease for 1951-52, more particularly for wheaten hay. The estimated area of wheat, barley and oats cut for hay is 184,000 acres compared with 218,675 last year and the estimated tonnage is 272,000 compared with 292,729. The estimated yield per acre is 1.48 tons compared with 1.34. While there have been decreases in the cereal hay, these have been made up to a certain extent by increases in clover and grass hay. It is reported that this year there are further increases in clover and grass hay.

ACREAGES. Last autumn the farmers had intimated that they intended to sow 1,620,000 acres with wheat for all purposes (grain, hay and green fodder) compared with 1,948,608 in 1950-51 and 2,662,150 in 1946-47. The recent replies indicate that the total acreage was only 1,600,000 acres. The total barley acreage is estimated now at 850,000 compared with the autumn estimate of 840,000 acres and with 793,807 in 1950-51 and 520,027 in 1946-47. The total area of oats is 780,000 compared with the autumn figure of 810,000 acres, 663,449 in 1950-51 and 485,736 in 1946-47. This season the combined area under barley and oats (1,630,000 acres) exceeds that under wheat (1,600,000 acres) for the first time.

RAINFALL. The average rainfall over the Agricultural Areas was above the mean for each of the months April to August and the opening of the season was ideal in most districts, though there was rather too much rain in the wetter districts. A drier than usual September was fortunate in view of the wet winter and again it was fortunate that this should be followed by heavier than usual rains in October. There was some damage from winds in October and November. The April-November rainfall was 16.16 inches compared with the mean of 12.26.

A. W. BOWDEN,

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

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